

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dharshini C. Fongalland et al. : Art Unit:
Application No.: To Be Assigned : Examiner:
Filed: Herewith :
FOR: SUBSTRATE :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8, with the following:

The substrate of the present invention is suitable for use in the preparation of a composite membrane for use in a fuel cell. When for use in a fuel cell, the total thickness of the membrane is suitably less than 200 μ m and preferably less than 100 μ m.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 11, with the following:

2) Perfluorinated or partially fluorinated polymers containing aromatic rings such as those described in WO 95/08581 and WO 97/25369 (Ballard Power Systems) which have been functionalised with SO₃H, PO₂H₂, PO₃H₂, CH₂PO₃H₂, COOH, OSO₃H, OPO₂H₂, OPO₃H₂. Also included are radiation or chemically grafted perfluorinated polymers, in which a perfluorinated carbon chain, for example, PTFE, fluorinated ethylene-propylene (FEP), tetrafluoroethylene-